

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 091988

NODIS
WHITE HOUSE - FOR Z.BRZEZINSKI ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, ENRG, TECH, JA

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR DISCUSSIONS WITH JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

REF: TOKYO 5782

1. TECHNICAL TALKS WITH GOJ DID NOT INVOLVE DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS ON TOKAI MURA (MEMCONS OF TALKS POUCHED APRIL 22). US SIDE INFORMED THE JAPANESE EXPLICITLY THAT IN LIGHT OF THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY STATEMENTS AND POLICY CONCERNS ABOUT ESTABLISHING A PRECEDENT APPROVING REPROCESSING THAT AN VIIIIC DETERMINATION COULD VERY LIKELY BE UNFAVORABLE TO GOJ INTERESTS. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES BEST COURSE FOR BOTH SIDES IS TO KEEP DISCUSSIONS GOING IN A TECHNICAL, NON-CONFRONTATIONAL WAY UNTIL OUTLINES OF MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE COMPRO-
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MISE BECOMES CLEARER.

2. UNO'S ENTRY INTO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AT THIS TIME WOULD, WE BELIEVE, RAISE EXPECTATIONS UNDULY. IF PRESS ACCOUNTS OF UNO'S PLANS TO VISIT SALZBURG ARE ACCURATE, EMBASSY MIGHT USEFULLY SUGGEST THAT HE USE THAT OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS ISSUE WITH NYE AND OTHERS OF US DELEGATION.

3. IMAI REMAINED BEHIND TO FLOAT A "PERSONAL" PROPOSAL FOR A TOKAI SOLUTION WITH NYE-SCHEINMAN. ACCORDING TO IMAI, THE PLAN HAS MOFA APPROVAL, BUT HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH STA OR MITI. NYE'S OFFICE IS NOW PREPARING A REPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT SUMMARIZING THE TALKS AND THE OUTLINES OF THE IMAI PLAN AND ASKING FOR GUIDANCE AND CONTINUATION OF NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY. IMAI PLAN SHOULD BE TREATED AS SENSITIVE.

4. IMAI'S PROPOSAL CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING POINTS: A) AGREE PUBLICLY ON THE NEED TO FIND A SHORT TERM SOLUTION FOR PLUTONIUM AND SPENT FUEL TRANSFER PROBLEMS; B) STATE JAPANESE PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF THE USG POSITION THAT THE NEAR TERM COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF PLUTONIUM TECHNOLOGY IS NEITHER POSSIBLE NOR NECESSARY; C) ANNOUNCE US COMMITMENT TO SELL JAPAN THREE YEARS EXTRA STOCKPILE OF ENRICHED URANIUM; D) A US COMMITMENT TO ASSIST JAPAN TO ACQUIRE INDEPENDENT ENRICHMENT CAPABILITIES AND TO HAVE ASSURED SUPPLIES OF NATURAL URANIUM; E) A US AGREEMENT NOT TO OBJECT TO RETRANSFERS OF SPENT FUEL FROM JAPAN; AND F) RECOGNITION BY THE US THAT PLUTONIUM TECHNOLOGY IS IMPORTANT AND SHOULD BE THE CONTINUED SUBJECT OF JAPANESE R&D ACTIVITIES, AND THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD AGREE THAT THE TECHNOLOGY BE CONFINED TO THE US, USSR, EC AND JAPAN, WHO WOULD BE PERMITTED TO PURSUE INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY RELATED TO PLUTONIUM.

5. THE GENERAL NYE-SCHEINMAN RESPONSES TO THE IMAI PRO-
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POSALS ARE AS FOLLOWS: B) WE APPRECIATE THIS VIEW AS CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S; THE US GOVERNMENT STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE FUEL CYCLE TECHNOLOGIES; C) WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF FUEL ASSURANCES IN ACHIEVING A FAVORABLE OUTCOME TO THE US NUCLEAR GOALS; WE ARE WILLING TO EXPLORE IF AND HOW ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES OF ENRICHED URANIUM CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO JAPAN; D) WE ARE WILLING TO EXPLORE WAYS TO SECURE FUEL SUPPLIES IN TERMS OF ENRICHMENT CAPACITY AND FEEDSTOCKS; IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR US IN NEAR TERM TO AGREE TO PROPOSALS ENTAILING DIRECT TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER; E) AN OPTIONS PAPER IS NOW WITH THE PRESIDENT CONCERNING RETRANSFERS OF US SUPPLIED SPENT FUEL FOR REPROCESSING OR ALTERATION OUTSIDE JAPAN, AND NO COMMENT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME; CONCERNING TRANSFERS WITHIN JAPAN TO TOKAI, AN VIIIIC DETERMINATION AT THIS TIME WOULD MOST LIKELY NOT BE POSITIVE; THE US CAN NOT MAKE LONG TERM COMMITMENTS REGARDING THE DISPOSITION OF US FUELS; AND F) IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE US TO BE DISCRIMINATORY; THE US WOULD HAVE DOMESTIC PROBLEMS

IF US ORIGIN FUELS COULD BE REPROCESSED UNCONDITIONALLY ABROAD AFTER PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION THAT REPROCESSING NOT TAKE PLACE IN US; IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR US NON-PROLIFERATION GOALS IF WE APPROVED REPROCESSING FOR JAPAN WHEN WE WERE ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE OTHER COUNTRIES NOT TO REPROCESS.

6. IN GENERAL DISCUSSIONS, NYE-SCHEINMAN STRESSED THAT A SOLUTION SHOULD EMPHASIZE US-JAPANESE COOPERATION, NOT PREJUDICE PRESIDENT CARTER'S NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY, AVOID SETTING UNFAVORABLE PRECEDENTS AND RESPOND TO THE JAPANESE POLITICAL PROBLEMS AND SHORT AND LONG-TERM ENERGY NEEDS. THEY SUGGESTED THAT IT MAY PROVE USEFUL TO BRING APPROPRIATE TECHNICAL PERSONNEL TOGETHER TO EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF EXTRACTING VALUE FROM SPENT FUEL OTHER THAN THE SEPARATION OF PLUTONIUM. THEY ADDED THAT THE US MIGHT WELCOME BRINGING THE TOKAI FACILITY INTO THE FRAME-
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WORK OF OUR PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION PROGRAM TO TEST SOME OF THESE ALTERNATIVES.

7. WE SUGGESTED MID TO LATE MAY AS BEST TIME FOR NEXT ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS.
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